Court suspends police summons to lawyer in Sikh woman case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday suspended the summons issued by the Sheikhupura Police to a lawyer, who had pursued the deportation of an Indian Sikh woman on behalf of a former Sikh MPA.

Justice Tanvir Ahmad Sheikh heard a petition filed by Advocate Ali Changezi Sandhu against the summons issued by the police.

A counsel argued on behalf of the petitioner that his client never submitted any application for the deportation of Sarabjeet Kaur in his personal capacity. He pointed out that Mahinder Pall Singh, a former member of the Punjab Assembly, had filed a petition in the LHC through Advocate Sandhu seeking the repatriation of the Indian Sikh woman.

He said the petitioner was performing his professional duties in the Sarabjeet Kaur case as a lawyer, so sending summons to him was illegal. The counsel argued that sending summons to a lawyer was tantamount to harassment.

Justice Tanvir Ahmed Sheikh suspended the impugned summons and sought replies from the Punjab Police chief and Sheikhupura DPO by Jan 22.

Sarbajeet Kaur, 48, had come via the Wahgha border to attend the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion, at Gurdwara Janamasthan, Nankana Sahib. She embraced Islam and contracted marriage with Nasir Hussain. Sarbajeet was given a Muslim name, Noor, before solemnisation of nikkah.

PFMA accuses govt of 'unfair' wheat distribution

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) on Tuesday levelled serious allegations against the Punjab government, claiming widespread corruption and an 'unfair' wheat distribution system in the province.

Addressing a press conference here, PFMA Central Chairman Asim Raza alleged that bribery was rampant in Punjab and that the chief minister was being misled through "all-is-well" reports.

He said the official wheat distribution mechanism was discriminatory, with government wheat quotas being allocated to 'favoured' flour mills, while many others were deliberately ignored.

Asim Raza further alleged that millions of rupees were being demanded as bribes for inter-provincial transportation of wheat, adversely affecting flour supply and creating difficulties for the public.

The PFMA demanded that the government ensure transparency in the wheat distribution system and take immediate steps to eliminate corruption, warning that failure to do so could further aggravate the situation.

BAHAWALPUR: A dance performance during the inauguration ceremony of green electric bus service at Dring Stadium. — APP

High court orders NCCIA to identify maligners of judiciary on social media

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Tuesday directed the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to compile a report identifying all individuals involved in maligning, scandalising, or attempting to subvert the dignity and authority of the judiciary through social media accounts, directly or indirectly.

Justice Ali Zia Bajwa was hearing a petition filed by a lawyer, Chaudhry Pervez Elahi Bhaddar, challenging an alleged character assassination campaign on social media against female judges of the high court.

The judge observed that any conduct amounting to contempt does not enjoy the protection of constitutional liberties and is not immune to legal action.

He maintained that no individual has the licence to scandalise the courts or obstruct the course of justice under the pretext of freedom of expression.

He noted that the law mandates that such acts be dealt with firmly to preserve the authority and sanctity of the judicial institution.

"Respect for the judiciary is of paramount importance in a constitutional framework, as it serves as the cornerstone for the rule of law, the separation of powers and the effective functioning of democratic institutions," Justice Bajwa observed in his written order.

The judge said the indifference and inaction of the state functionaries amounted to a clear disregard of their statutory obligations.

Advocate General Punjab (AGP) Amjad Pervez appeared before the court and stated that the provincial government shall leave no stone unturned in curbing and countering any campaign aimed at undermining the dignity, independence and authority of the judiciary.

He asserted that any attempt to malign the judiciary is deeply deplorable and must be unequivocally condemned. He sought time to file a comprehensive written reply on the next date of hearing.

Earlier, Advocate Mian Dawood argued on behalf of the petitioner that an organised and deliberate campaign had been launched across various social media platforms with the manifest objective of maligning, scandalising and weakening the authority and dignity of the judiciary.

He said such conduct is not only condemnable, but also poses a serious threat to the independence of the judicial institution and the sanctity of the justice system.

He argued that despite the gravity of the situation, the public functionaries and regulatory authorities showed conspicuous and unexplained inaction.

Justice Bajwa ordered the authorities that any individual found involved in maligning, scandalising, or otherwise attempting to diminish the dignity and authority of the judiciary shall be proceeded against strictly in accordance with law.

The judge summoned the NCCIA director general on the next hearing to explain the apparent failure of cyber policing, which serves as a critical instrument in preventing the circulation of objectionable material on social media platforms.

The judge also sought a report from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) chairman, outlining the statutory role and responsibilities of the authority in identifying, blocking and removing contemptuous content from digital and social media.

The judge will resume further hearing on Jan 15.

Woman, five children burnt alive in two house fire incidents

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A woman and five children lost their lives in two incidents of house fires in the province on Tuesday.

In the first incident, three minor sisters lost their lives when a fire broke out in a room of their house in Layyah district, according to Rescue 1122.

The victims were identified as one-and-a-half-year-old Fatima, three-year-old Arooj Fatima, and seven-year-old Jaweria Batool, daughters of Samiullah of Basti Baseera in Karor Lal Esan tehsil. As per Rescue 1122, the children were asleep when the fire erupted and quickly engulfed the entire room.

On being informed of the incident, Rescue 1122 teams reached the spot and managed to extinguish the fire after nearly an hour-long efforts.

During the search of the debris, the rescuers retrieved the bodies of the three sisters and shifted them to local tehsil headquarters hospital for medico-legal procedures.

A Rescue 1122 official, on condition of anonymity, said the caller informed the emergency control room that a mentally challenged child had started the fire.

However, family members later said sparking in a high-tension power line passing over the roof of the room caused the blaze.

Police officials arriving at the scene completed legal formalities and handed over the bodies to the family.

Authorities concerned have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

The incident highlighted the dangers posed by unsafe housing structures and exposed electricity wiring in rural areas.

In another incident occurring in Arifwala, two infants and their mother died, while their father suffered burns when their house caught fire because of gas leakage.

A Rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot and shifted the dead and injured to the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital. The deceased were identified as Safia, 26, Gulshan, 3 and one-year-old Fazilat.

Rescue personnel say that the fire erupted in a room while lighting a stove attached with a gas cylinder.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic loss of a mother and her two minor daughters in the fire incident.

She extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family and directed the authorities concerned to ensure a strict ban on the sale and purchase of substandard gas cylinders to prevent such incidents in the future.

FCPS-II / MCPS TRAINING IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AT SOBHRAJ MATERNITY HOSPITAL

KARACHI METROPOLITAN CORPORATION

Applications are invited for FCPS-II and MCPS training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Sobhraj Maternity Hospital, KMC for a period of 04 years and 02 years respectively. Last date for submission of application is **19th January 2026**. Interview will be conducted on Tuesday, **20th January 2026.** List of Selected candidates for FCPS-II & MCPS will be displayed on **26th January 2026,** in the office of Medical Superintendent, Sobhraj Maternity Hospital, KMC Robson Road off Burns Road, near Urdu Bazar, Karachi. Candidates are required to bring all the original documents along with a set of attested copies at the time of interview.

ELIGIBILITY

01	Qualification: -	- MBBS, FCPS part-I (For **FCPS- Part II Training**). -` MBBS, MCPS with one year of clinical experience of House Job (For **MCPS Training**)
02	Registration: -	Valid Registration from Pakistan Medical & Dental Council
03	Domicile/PRC: -	Karachi
04	Photographs: -	Two (Recent)
05	Copy of C.N.I.C	
Phone No.		**021-32636087, 0333-2272434**
Email		sobhraj.hospital@yahoo.com

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
SOBHRAJ MATERNITY HOSPITAL, KMC

INF-MM/113/2026

Faisalabad police launch course to combat campus drug abuse

Suggest province-wide replication; module comprises activity-based exercises to raise awareness; police claim to have unearthed five networks last month

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: In a first initiative so far, the Faisalabad region police have introduced an activity-based anti-drug module for students from Grade 5 onwards and suggested to the Punjab government to replicate it to the educational institutions across the province after they detected a large-scale pervasive supply of illicit drugs – top of them the ice – to the young students.

In a letter addressed to the Punjab chief secretary, Faisalabad Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sohail Akthar Sukhera pointed out the magnitude and the scale of the crime against the school-going children, saying drug abuse has infiltrated the education institutions including the schools and colleges.

As per the reports, the five big drug trafficking networks were unearthed by the Faisalabad police during the last month or so.

The drug dealers told the police they were largely supplying ice and other drugs to schools and colleges across the region.

An official said the police recovered 170.084 kg heroin, 37.135 kg Ice and 387 kg Charas besides other illicit substances from the drug peddlers.

He said a network run by an alleged criminal, Zargam, was supplying the drugs from Chaman Border.

Similarly, other notorious drug traffickers - Amjad Khan and Sunil Dogar - were supplying the same from Peshawar to Faisalabad region.

The police arrested many major handlers/members of various gangs while raids were being conducted for the arrest of Javed and Sunil who were reportedly hiding somewhere in Peshawar.

Those arrested included Murad, Shabbir, Azhar alias Viki, Arshad, Adnan, Masood, Imran, Tanvir etc. from various parts of the region.

After breaking the drug supply chains, the Faisalabad region police high-ups constituted a team of senior police experts and held a series of meetings to bring a permanent solution to the serious matter of securing the other young students from the menace of drug abuse.

Supervised by Faisalabad RPO Sohail Sukhera, the team introduced a module after consultations with academicians, educationists, parents and members of the business community, following a survey that identified 'peer pressure' as a major factor behind drug use among school, college and university students.

Designed under the supervision of teachers, the programme aimed to equip students with moral resilience, awareness and life skills to resist substance abuse and make informed choices.

"The module includes structured, activity-based exercises to promote self-confidence, ethical values and positive decision-making," says Mr Sukhera.

It has also been adapted for students of seminaries (madressahs), integrating ethical teachings, self-discipline and social responsibility to address contemporary challenges such as drug addiction while reinforcing moral values.

"The programme has been launched in private schools across the Faisalabad region in coordination with the commissioner," the RPO said.

The module has also been sent to authorities with the proposal of its replication across educational institutions in Punjab.

Parallel to these preventive measures, the Faisalabad region police have intensified operations against hardened criminal elements.

Acting on intelligence-based information, police teams arrested proclaimed offenders wanted in 38 murder cases and 27 attempted murder cases, besides tracing nine other serious criminal cases.

In a separate drive against narcotics, police have registered 1,473 cases and arrested 1,481 suspects. The seized contraband included 623 kg of charas, 167kg of heroin, 37kg of ice and 30,937 litres of liquor.

506 acres of PR land worth Rs11.39bn retrieved

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways Police retrieved 506 acres of railway land worth Rs11.39bn from the illegal occupants during 2025. The police registered 1,049 cases against the land mafia and arrested 1,099 suspects.

It was revealed in a meeting of the PR's SPs heading the force in Lahore, Karachi, Sukkur, Multan, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Peshawar divisions. The meeting was presided over by PR Police Inspector General (IG) Rai Tahir here at the Central Police Office.

During the meeting, the divisional SPs briefed the IG about their performance related to crime, law and order situation, security of passengers, trains, stations, offices and registration of cases besides crackdown on the land mafia. They revealed that 3,681 cases were registered for various crimes whereas 4,197 suspects were arrested.

In the wake of the railway material theft, the police registered 493 cases and arrested 677 suspects besides recovering the material worth Rs9.4m from them. Sixty-eight cases were registered in the wake of smuggling of illegal arms. Seventy-two suspects were arrested with recovery of 1,979 bullets, one Kalashnikov, four rifles, 82 pistols, 89 magazines, four knives and one cutter from them. As many as 218 cases were registered regarding narcotics smuggling through trains. In this regard, 218 people were arrested with recovery of 1.470kg opium, 69kg charas, 3.33kg heroin, 408kg bhang, 2.615kg ice and 167 liquor bottles.

As many as 413 runaway boys and 245 girls were taken into custody and later handed over to their heirs. Similarly, the police also found goods worth Rs33.4m and handed over to passengers.